

East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, August 18, 2009

Town Council Chambers

125 Main Street

East Greenwich, RI 02818

ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE

**6:30p.m. Executive Session, R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) Interview
Recommended Candidate for Vice-Principal**

7:00p.m. Regular Session

I. Pledge of Allegiance

The regular session was held at 7:00p.m. in the Town Council Chambers. Members present: JeanAnn Guliano, Chair, Anne Palumbo, Vice-Chair, MaryEllen Winters, Robert Durant, Paul Martin, and Deidre Gifford, as well as Superintendent Dr. Victor Mercurio, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, Director of Special Services, Paula Dillon, and Director of Facilities, Robert Wilmarth.

II. Public Comments

July Lonardo, from the Girl Scouts, spoke about building rental charges. She will instruct the troops to meet only after school. She stated that the money for a rental is more than the troops use yearly for their expenses.

III. Recognitions

a. Patricia Rakovic and Joanne Leach were recognized for being accepted into the first offering of a certification program in Autism.

They will extend the expertise garnered through this program to build the district's capacity in servicing students on the spectrum.

b. Cheryl Botwick and Henry Kates, were recognized for their service on the Building Committee

c. Jack Sommer, was recognized for his work on the East Greenwich Education Foundation.

IV. Approval of Minutes-June 30, 2009 Regular and Executive Sessions. Mr. Durant

made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to table these minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Superintendent's Report-Entry Plan

Dr. Mercurio stated that his plan will be posted on our website. He presented his

plan and thanked the School Committee and the public for all their help. He is seeking their approval of his plan.

VI. Action Items

a. Resignation

Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve

the following resignations: The motion passed unanimously.

b. 1. Anthony Pape, Resource Teacher at Frenchtown School, effective July 29, 2009

2. Building Committee Members, Cheryl Botwick, Henry Kates

c. Parental Leave

Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the

following parental leave:

2. Lara Aulenbach, Social Studies Teacher at EGHS, for the 2009-2010 school

year

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d. Appointments

Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to approve the appointments #4 through 16. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Assistant Principal at Cole Middle School, effective 8-19-09

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the appointment of Mr. Varrecchione as Assistant Principal of Cole Middle School for three years pending contract negotiations. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Sara Almquist, 1.0 Mathematics Teacher at EGHS, effective 8-31-09

5. Nancy Gage, 1.0 Speech and Language Pathologist for Cole and Hanaford Schools, effective 8-31-09

6. Rebecca Phillips, Grade Five Teacher at Eldredge School, effective 8-31-09 for one year only.

7. Katie Cohen, 0.4 Latin Teacher at Archie Cole Middle school, effective 8-31-09 for one year only.

8. Benjamin Revkin, 1.0 Latin Teacher at East Greenwich High School, effective 8-31-09, for one year only.

9. Roslyn Birke, Reading Teacher at Meadowbrook School, effective 8-31-09

10. Christine Shaw, 0.1 Alternative Learning Program (ALP) and Lori Koplik 0.2 ALP, effective 8-31-09, for one year only.
11. Sean Keene, K-3 Special Educator at Frenchtown School, effective 8-31-09
12. Michael Penza, 1.0 PBGR Coordinator at EGHS, effective 8-31-09
13. Julie Calise, 0.5 PreSchool Special Educator at Meadowbrook Farms School, effective 8-31-09
14. Margaret Bonk, School Nurse-Teacher at East Greenwich High School, effective 8-31-09
15. BUILDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS, Tricia Colgan and Tom Stocker
16. COACHING APPOINTMENTS-returning coaches
Joe Szymkowicz-Head Boys' Soccer, Stephanie Gloria-Head Girls' Soccer,
Stanley Johnson-Head Coed Cross Country

d. Second Reading and Vote on Teacher Evaluation Process

Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to table this item. The motion passed with Mr. Martin voting no. Dr. Mercurio will have a meeting with the Commissioner of Education and will ask her about the new state requirements for the teacher evaluation process.

e. Approval of Change Orders for Fields

Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the change orders #6, 7, and 8. The motion passed unanimously.

Change order #5 deals with freshwater wetlands. It was noted that

DEM will issue the permit at the end of this week. The change order was to break the application in two, Carcieri Field and McHale Property. This is for a temporary access road for the stockpile of excess materials. Mrs. Guliano's concern is that when we contracted with Caito Corporation, the School Committee thought they would get one permit and now it is two. Mr. Caito stated that he didn't build wholesale changes into the budget. Mr. Duarte stated that the formal application can get very involved. He added that the irrigation pond was not understood up front. The original submission would have included the bulk of the work. Mr. Caito stated that the RIDE regulations were not included. Mrs. Gifford stated that there should have been a contingency in Mr. Caito's original bid. Mrs. Guliano has a problem with the original \$15,000 on change order #5. Mr. Caito feels it is not fair to whittle the additional amount down. Mr. Durant made a

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motion which was seconded by Mrs. Gifford to approve change order #5 but the motion was defeated 6 to 0. Change order #5 will be revisited and line by line detail will be provided.

f. Approval of re-dedication of Carcieri Field and Gallogly Field

Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the re-dedication. There is no date yet. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Discussion Items

a. CPT Focus Group Update

The group met on July 28th and there were different options

presented. A aren't asked for a part-time teacher but the School Committee was not in favor of this. Mrs. Crawford stated that the budget will be able to cover the additional money. Dr. Mercurio would like to go forward with the group's suggestions and evaluate the different look to see if it is good students. Mrs. Gifford's concern in cutting the program was financial and to see if it could reach more students. Mrs. Dillon stated that her group didn't look into a part-time teacher because of the funding available. The School Committee will look at CPT again at the next meeting.

b. Legislative Update

Mrs. Guliano noted that the legislature passed legislation regarding donations to schools. Removal of bus monitors didn't pass. The mandate to post agendas in newspapers versus websites is coming back in September. The funding formula and extending teacher contracts passed the senate and they are looking at revisions to include binding arbitration.

c. ESCO Energy

Robert Wilmarth stated that this has gone out to bid and proposals will be reviewed to narrow them down. They will be sent to the energy or building committee for the review process. Mrs. Gifford would like a financial analysis before we engage anyone. The Rhode Island Department of Education will reimburse us for this.

d. Revised Fields Budget

Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to table this item. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Updated Fields Construction Committee charge-There is a mutual

agreement between the Town Council and School Committee on this item.

f. Youth to Youth Initiative Update

Mr. Robert Houghtaling thanked the School Committee for their financial support of his program. Several Youth to Youth students spoke about how important the program is to them. They all thanked the School Committee for their support. Mr. Houghtaling was thanked for his service to the town for the past 26 years.

g. Athletic Director

Dr. Mercurio stated that this position will be posted as soon as possible. A secondary principal certificate through the RI Department of Education will be needed. The interview committee will consist of the principal, teacher, parent, School Committee member, student athlete, and coaches. The credential should be in place for a secondary principal certification, ensuring that if the Principal or Assistant Principal is out of the building, we will not need to hire an additional person.

h. Building Committee Update

Mr. Jon Winikur stated that the gym demolition at Cole is complete. The cost issue early on was the discovery of asbestos containing materials under the gym floor. He is optimistic that the work will be on schedule and the numbers are on track. The

building official and Fire Marshall will make sure we meet the codes. Mr. Winikur added that alternatives will be in place if this doesn't

happen. The high school plumbing is completed and finish work is still to happen. We are under budget. They also looked at the water issue at Meadowbrook. The firm that did the analysis on the floor stated that the water system is not working properly. The suggestion is to take it piece by piece. Bids for phase two and three are being worked on now and the high school will follow. Mrs. Meyers stated that she will work on developing a map and put it on the website. She will have police on site for the first few days. Dr. Mercurio thanked Mr. Winikur for his invaluable help.

i. Review of Building Rental Policy

The policy was the recommendation of the Finance Committee last year. There

are some groups who come in after school and pay a minimal fee for any rental after school up to 5:00p.m. There is a recommendation that the finance subcommittee takes a look at the list of who rents our buildings and make a recommendation to the policy subcommittee on community or student based groups getting a break.

VIII. School Committee Concerns

Mr. Martin asked about changing the location of the September 1st meeting. It was

noted that if a School Committee member wants an item on the agenda, they should go to the Chair.

IX. On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee, being polled individually, voted to adjourn at 9:40p.m. to go into Executive Session, under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2) for Teacher Contract Negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary